practice of thoſe duties which dignify the human character.—They only live to amuſe themſelves, and by the ſame law which in nature invariably produces certain effects, they ſoon only afford barren amuſement.

But as I purpoſe taking a ſeparate view of the different ranks of ſociety, and of the moral character of women, in each, this hint is, for the preſent, ſufficient; and I have only alluded to the ſubject, becauſe it appears to me to be the very eſſence of an introduction to give a curſory account of the contents of the work it introduces.

My own ſex, I hope, will excuſe me, if I treat them like rational creatures, inſtead of flattering their *faſcinating* graces, and viewing them as if they were in a ſtate of perpetual childhood, unable to ſtand alone. I earneſtly wiſh to point out in what true dignity and human happineſs conſiſts—I wiſh to perſuade women to endeavour to acquire ſtrength, both of mind and body, and to convince them that the ſoft phraſes, ſuſceptibility of heart, delicacy of ſentiment, and refinement of taſte, are almoſt ſynonymous with epithets of weakneſs, and that thoſe beings who are only the objects of pity and that kind of love, which has

has been termed its ſiſter, will ſoon become objects of contempt.

Diſmiſſing then thoſe pretty feminine phraſes, which the men condeſcendingly uſe to ſoften our ſlaviſh dependence, and deſpiſing that weak elegancy of mind, exquiſite ſenſibility, and ſweet docility of manners, ſuppoſed to be the ſexual characteriſtics of the weaker veſſel, I wiſh to ſhew that elegance is inferior to virtue, that the firſt object of laudable ambition is to obtain a character as a human being, regardleſs of the diſtinction of ſex; and that ſecondary views ſhould be brought to this ſimple touchſtone.

This is a rough ſketch of my plan; and ſhould I expreſs my conviction with the energetic emotions that I feel whenever I think of the ſubject, the dictates of experience and reflection will be felt by ſome of my readers. Animated by this important object, I ſhall diſdain to cull my phraſes or poliſh my ſtyle; —I aim at being uſeful, and ſincerity will render me unaffected; for, wiſhing rather to perſuade by the force of my arguments, than dazzle by the elegance of my language, I ſhall not waſte my time in rounding periods, nor in fabricating the turgid bombaſt of arti-